

Budget and Priorities (B&P) Subcommittee of the Galveston Bay Council (GBC)

Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP), Virtual Teams

Minutes

Attendees

Members attended: Glenn Clingenpeel, George Guillen, Brian Koch, Kerry Niemann, Cherie O'Brien, Nancy Parra, Lisa Rickards, Linda Shead.

GBEP Staff attended: Cynthia Clevenger, Wendy Forester, Lindsey Lippert, Kristen McGovern, Lisa Marshall, Stevie Nash, Christian Rines, Patricia Thompson.

Welcome and Introductions.

Lisa Marshall and Glenn Clingenpeel welcomed the members to the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2021 was made by Brian Koch and a second was made by Cherie O'Brien. The minutes were approved.

Planning for July GBC Meeting

Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Ms. Marshall reminded the members that in November the terms for Chair and Vice Chair positions for the GBC will expire. She told the subcommittee that she has asked Mr. Clingenpeel and Albert Gonzales to stay on as Chair and Vice Chair of the GBC. It has been an unusual two years for their term, and it would be nice for Mr. Clingenpeel and Mr. Gonzales to be able to serve under more normal circumstances. They are willing to serve another term provided the GBC members support this idea. Nancy Parra asked if this would need to be approved by the GBC. The consensus was that the GBC should approve an additional term for the Chairs at the October GBC meeting.

Nomination of Public Participation and Education (PPE) Subcommittee Chair

The PPE Subcommittee no longer has a Chair or Vice Chair. Cynthia Clevenger has spoken to Cindy Wilems about serving as the Chair and she has agreed. Because she is not a GBC member, Ms. Wilems will need to be nominated by the GBC to serve as the Chair. Ms. Clevenger will read her bio, and Ms. Parra has volunteered to nominate Ms. Wilems.

Introduce Alan Black, Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Representative

With Russ Poppe's resignation as Executive Director of HCFCD, Alan Black has been appointed interim Executive Director and will serve on the GBC until a permanent Executive Director is appointed. Mr. Black will be introduced to the GBC and Linda Shead volunteered to read his bio.

Fiscal Year 2023 Subcommittee Priorities

During the June subcommittee meetings, priorities were selected for the fiscal year 23 funding cycle. The subcommittee coordinators reported on the priorities selected.

Monitoring and Research Subcommittee

- Biological stressor monitoring and research
- Physical stressor monitoring and research
- Estimation of spatial and temporal trends in point source and/or nonpoint source loading and compliance with effluent standards

Natural Resource Uses Subcommittee

- Habitat acquisition
- Enhancement of existing or ongoing restoration/conservation efforts
- Benefit to native fish and wildlife, including federal and state listed Species, species of greatest conservation need, or nongame wildlife
- Brings funding, work leverage, or multiple goal benefits to the subcommittee
- Project Urgency: project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost

Public Participation and Education Subcommittee

- Programs building capacity to target and partner with underrepresented communities that encourage diversity, equity, and addresses language barriers
- Programs that address careers in the environmental field targeting high school-aged youth, young adults in college, and young professionals

Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee

- Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans
- Soil health studies, workshops, and green infrastructure
- Targeted/direct monitoring

Four presentations were scheduled for the July GBC meeting:

Video Presentation: *Estuary Resilience Assessment Report Update – Stephanie Glenn, Ph.D., Houston Advanced Research Center*

Presentation: *Characterization and Modeling of Compound Flooding: Introducing the Texas Integrated Flooding Framework (TIFF) Planning Project – Caimee Schoenbaechler and Amin Kiaghadi, Ph.D., Texas Water Development Board*

Presentation: *Public Perception Assessment of Galveston Bay – TBD*

Presentation: *An Introduction to the GBEP Implementation Tracking Viewer – Kristen McGovern, Ph.D., Galveston Bay Estuary Program*

Discussion of Ideas for Different Format for January Meeting

Ms. Marshall opened a discussion and asked for ideas for an alternate format for a GBC meeting, possibly in January. Cherie O'Brien suggested a field trip where the members could see projects that have been completed. Taking members out to restoration sites

and other projects used to occur more frequently. There will need to be some coordination if boats are necessary and potentially a place to meet to discuss business before touring the sites. When planning this type of meeting/field trip, we must consider the best quarterly meeting when there is not significant GBC business (light agenda) to complete and the weather is not an issue.

If we choose to do a meeting with another format like a panel or open discussion, it would need to be very well planned and facilitated to keep the meeting organized and in control. Ms. Shead suggested thinking about a topic that is ongoing and something that would be similar to a symposium type of topic. Perhaps the topic could be something from the symposium that would need an update. There is a lot of work in plastics pollution- going on in the community such as clean ups and prevention, and GBEP is funding research. What are people doing to clean up and prevent, and what are we learning about plastic pollution?

Ms. Clevenger suggested discussing the many conservation plans that are out there now. How do they implement the plan, organize our resources, how are they similar and different? George Guillen strongly endorsed this idea. Mr. Guillen suggested getting up-to-date status of the plans, is there funding through their plans to leverage GBEP funding, are there opportunities to work together and maximize our dollars, and lessons learned.

More input is needed from members. Maybe a special meeting of the B&P is needed to discuss these ideas or possibly discuss during an extended October meeting.

Mr. Clingenpeel also offered to host the B&P Subcommittee meeting at the Trinity River Authority. We could conduct business, have lunch, and tour the facility. Mr. Clingenpeel is not available to host in October but maybe January.

Alternate Date for October 2021 GBC Meeting

Ms. Marshall is required to attend a conference on the date of the next quarterly GBC meeting. She would like to find an alternate date for the meeting. Three dates were suggested: October 14, October 27, and November 3. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to the GBC members to determine the best date.

Scheduling the Next B&P Subcommittee Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Announcements: Ms. O'Brien announced that they are scheduled to close on July 15 on 75 acres on the west end of Galveston with Artist Boat that will be part of the Coastal Heritage Preserve, plus another 45 acres in August or September. Also, on Galveston Island State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was awarded 7550 linear feet to create break water; they are currently surveying and will place rock next week and be completed in October.

Upcoming meetings:

Galveston Bay Council: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2021, WebEx Virtual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.